



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**OLEM/OSRTI/TIFSD**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE TEAM**

Edison, NJ ■ Erlanger, KY ■ Las Vegas, NV ■ Research Triangle Park, NC

**A Month in Retrospect, September 2016**

[Note: Activities are grouped according to the ERT Priorities]

**Innovative Technical Assistance to the EPA Regions**

*Region 2*

● **Niagara Falls Boulevard, Niagara Falls, NY [Removal].** Lyndsey Nguyen has provided technical support to EPA Region 2 lead On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Eric Daly, as well as to alternate R2 OSCs, Chris Jimenez and Carl Pellegrino, in removal operations performed at the Niagara Falls Boulevard site. Many properties within the Niagara Falls community including roadways, drives ways, parking lots, and building foundations have been contaminated due to improper disposal of radioactive waste generated in the 1960s. In September 2016, R2 began removal of the flooring and building foundation of an office located in the Greater Niagara Building Center. Lyndsey Nguyen provided technical assistance and training to RST and ERRS contractors on counting instrumentation including QA/QC, handheld detection system procedures, generation of relevant documentation, contamination control practices, and radiological health and safety precautions. With limit space on the NFB site, and NYSDEC discouraging stockpiling, as well as public perceptions/concerns, the logistical and technical needs of waste packaging for disposal needed to be addressed. On October 4, conference call with the awarded disposal facility (i.e. US Ecology) was held to discuss the Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) and challenges of meeting the WAC involving the unique waste found at NFB site. The challenges facing waste packaging requiring ERT technical assistance included blending higher concentrations of waste with lower concentrations of waste specific for each area within NFB; determining if various ratios per area(s) to meet the WAC; calculating concentrations for each disposal shipment to ensure concentrations are below 500 mg/kg of total Uranium and Thorium; ensuring the blending also meets the 50pCi/g limit of Ra-226 per shipment; and ensuring each disposal shipment meets Department of Transportation dose rate limits, capacity limits, and weight restrictions. Each area within the NFB site will be treated independently; pre-calculated blending ratios must be established and approved by US Ecology prior to material being loaded onto the disposal trucks. On October 11, Lyndsey Nguyen presented to US Ecology and R2 NFB team, via Adobe Connect, site specific data, calculations, and various waste packaging options, as a means to meet the WAC. The meeting

emphasized the need for more sampling to determine how waste will be classified. On October 17, US Ecology's Health Physicist along with Lyndsey Nguyen discussed possible disposal options based on newly collected data. On October 20, a formalized, eleven page proposal was written by Lyndsey Nguyen and sent to US Ecology's Health Physicist for approval. This proposal outlines EPA's conservative approach on how all requirements will be met. After US Ecology's approval, the removal of radioactive waste is predicted to begin at the end of October and continue until weather permits. (Contacts: ERT – Lyndsey K. Nguyen, 702-784-8018. Region 2 – Eric Daly, OSC, 908-420-1707)

### **Training/Exercises in Technical and Health and Safety Areas to Improve Response Effectiveness**

● ***Active Shooter / Lockdown Training (FPS).*** On Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 9:00am ERT-W and ORIA-Las Vegas hosted a three hour Active Shooter training. Participants including personnel from ERT-W, ORIA-Las Vegas, ORD-Las Vegas, Finance Department, and HR. The training was held by Sargent Hung Deya and Bryan Scott from the local Southern Nevada Federal Protective Services. The trainers discussed a wide range of topics including security awareness, lockdown procedures, suspicious packages, fight/flight/hide situations for active shooter scenarios, cover vs. conceal, as well as, useful and available resources. Although the course emphasized potential work related scenarios, the knowledge gained from this training could be applied to workers on travel, as well as what to do during off-duty if the need ever arises.